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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/069,688	07/15/2002	Emmanuel Mastorakis	KIL01 P-424	3726
277	7590	09/07/2004	EXAMINER	
PRICE HENEVELD COOPER DEWITT & LITTON, LLP 695 KENMOOR, S.E. P O BOX 2567 GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49501			HAN, MARK K	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3763	

DATE MAILED: 09/07/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/069,688

**Applicant(s)**

MASTORAKIS, EMMANUEL

**Examiner**

Mark K Han

**Art Unit**

3763

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 May 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 7-16, 19-22, 37-42, 45-49, 57 and 58 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 7-16, 19-22, 37-42, 45-49, 57 and 58 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 1-3, 7-11, 14, 16, 19-22, 37-39, 42, 45-49, 57 and 58 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by French Patent No. 2,718,358 to Elfandi.

Elfandi discloses a retainer part 212, connector part 209, legs 222 having a first formation 219c and second formation 112, bore, barrel, conical shoulder portion, neck portion, recess, hub part and stop surface 110. See Figures 8a and 8b.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Elfandi.

Elfandi discloses the claimed invention except that Elfandi shows only one connector protrusion. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention of Elfandi to have two connector protrusions since it has been held that mere duplication of parts is unpatentable. *In re Harza*, 274 F.2d 669, 124 USPQ 378 (CCPA 1960).

Art Unit: 3763

3. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Elfandi in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,342,309 to Hausser.

Elfandi discloses the claimed invention except for the internal ribs. Hausser discloses ribs 40. See Figures 2 and 4. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention of Curie to include the ribs of Hausser in order to provide a more efficient means of engagement between the needle and the hub.

4. Claims 40 and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,210,371 to Shaw in view of Elfandi.

Shaw discloses a butterfly needle catheter 10 having a locking mechanism 50. See Figures 1-6. Shaw, however, does not disclose the locking mechanism as described in claims 40 and 41. Elfandi discloses such a locking mechanism, as shown above. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to substitute the locking mechanism of Shaw for the locking mechanism for Elfandi in order to provide a means to prevent accidental infection from exposure of the contaminated needle to the user.

### ***Response to Arguments***

5. Applicant's arguments, see p. 2, lines 4-17, filed 28 May 2004, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-3, 8-14, 16, 20-22, 42 and 45-49 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Elfandi.

Art Unit: 3763

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark K Han whose telephone number is 703-308-4543. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday, 9 am to 5:30 pm.

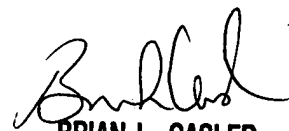
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nicholas Lucchesi can be reached on 703-308-2698. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Mark Han  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 3763

mkh  
September 2, 2004



**BRIAN L. CASLER**  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
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